Jane Irish Ayop

Lesly Banguis

Zhaira May Dag-on

CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF A RESEARCH ARTICLE

Form groups of THREES. For your group, choose ONE sample study illustrating any of the current approaches to language and gender and do a critical analysis of the article by examining its parts. Give your critique of each of the parts by answering the guide questions given. Make your answers brief and direct to the point.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Title of the Article:** Language and Construction of Gender: A Feminist Critique of SMS Discourse | | |
| **Author/s and Date of Publication:** Ghulam Ali, Lubna Akhlaq Khan. September 2012 | | |
| **Parts** | **Guide Questions** | **Your Answer** |
| **Title** (5 pts) | Does the title precisely state the subject of the paper? Explain briefly. | * The extension of feminism into theoretical, fictional, or philosophical discourse is known as feminist theory. The authors had incorporated the subject (a feminist critique) into the title. * The feminist approach’s goal is to comprehend the nature of gender disparity. It investigates women's and men's social roles, experiences, interests, chores, and feminist politics. |
| **Introduction**(10 pts) | What is/are the objective/objectives of the study? Or why do/es the author/s conduct this study?  Is the need to conduct the study well-established? | * Gender is constructed by the society with the help of different individuals, groups and social institutions. Language is the basic tool to construct identities. * The objective of the present study is to determine the use of language, Especially SMS discourse, to construct stereotypical female identities. Feminism and constructionism provided the theoretical perspective. * Women's different personalities and active role in the changing world are rarely shown in the media. It even feeds into the stereotypes of women as sex objects, consumers, and slaves. Messaging is now a living medium. Messages, like other forms of media, are a potent socializing tool. * They play a vital role in the dissemination of information and hence have the potential to influence people's beliefs, perceptions, and attitudes. We can better comprehend SMS's impact to gender construction by looking at its content and language. |
| **Method** (15 pts) | What method/approach/theory is used by the researcher/s?  How are language and gender studied in this approach?  How does the approach help the researcher/s to obtain desired data or information?  How are the data interpreted? | * The approaches used to study these messages sent by both men and women include content analysis and feminist criticism. * Content analysis is primarily utilized in descriptive research, although it can also be employed in exploratory and explanatory studies. (2004, Kruppendroff). * The current research focuses on mobile phone communications from both men and women. The communications are chosen at random from the researcher's own collection of over 400 texts in which ladies are mentioned or referenced in some way. * Feminism and constructionism provide a theoretical framework. * The main purpose of the feminist movement was to achieve gender equality. The theoretical perspective for the current study was offered by feminist and constructivist theoretical lenses. The queer theoretical claim that language is neither transparent, neutral, or innocent also served as a foundation for this study. * Language prefers sameness to homogeny, according to theorists like Michael Foucault (1990), Eve Kosfsky Sedgwick (1990), and Judith Butler (1990). While considering general identities, language provides some guidance on how to represent ourselves and others. |
| **Results and Discussion** (25 pts) | What are the results of the study? Do/es the author/s answer the problem/s raised?  How is the approach used to obtain the result?  How are the results interpreted?  Do the findings of the study support or contradict findings of previous studies in the field? | * The feminist approach was applied to examine the appearance of women in SMS language. Feminist and constructivist theoretical lenses provided the theoretical perspective to conduct the present study. * The feminist and content analysis of SMS discourse revealed that females are talked about and referred to from a ‘male gaze’ in a very derogatory and negative way as: satanic, dubious, enigmatical, perpetrators of all evil and vice, liars, capricious, etc. * The author found out that females are portrayed as a **body** rather than ‘somebody’. The most recurring theme in these SMS was that men are fed up of females and want to get rid of them as soon as possible. * The effect of these negative stereotyping can be damaging on females as it is damaging their self-esteem. * In the previous studies, women are negatively portrayed in Mass Media. They are portrayed as subservient, dependent, nurturing, selfless, sacrificing mother and wife, heterosexual sex object, prostitute, mistress, etc. These are in line with the findings of the study. |
| **Conclusion** (5 pts) | How is the significance of the findings described?  Does the research make a significant contribution to human knowledge particularly on language and gender? | * Language reflects the attitudes, beliefs, thoughts and culture of the people who made and utilized it (Schulz, 1990). * This research tells us that, reproachful and negative language and content of these messages show and reinforce the negative attitudes and beliefs about females in our society; they are counterproductive and perpetuate low self-respect in females. |